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1972/01/03

SECRET NODIS

Pass to Washington

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION

SECRET

January 3, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER

FROM: JOHN D. NEGROPONTE

SUBJECT: Plans for Thursday's Plenary in Paris

Porter has sent in his plans for this coming Thursday's plenary. (Tab B) He proposes to deal with:

-- The recent air strikes

-- Hanoi's rejection of a large number of POW gift packages

-- Their intransigence at the Talks

Porter also proposes to see what the other side has to say and to consult with the GVN delegation before deciding how to respond to their likely suggestion that the next meeting be on January 13. Porter's cable was drafted before the President's conversation with Dan Rather. The full text has, however, now been sent to Paris and we are certain he will also draw on it for his presentation.

State has sent over for clearance a cable concurring in Porter's plans. (Tab A) The cable also proposes to modify the details of Porter's pitch on the rejected POW packages in such a way as to score the same point but avoid taking the packages out of postal channels possibly leading to numerous requests in the U.S. to have packages and mail delivered in the Paris meetings.

Recommendation:

That you approve State's concurrence cable at Tab A.

1/4/72

Approve HAK Disapprove _____

Take up on the day

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By AT NARA Date 3-8-02

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ACTION: USDEL FRANCE IMMEDIATE

INFO: Amembassy SAIGON IMMEDIATE

NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS

SUBJ: Plans for 139th Plenary Session

REFS: (A) USDEL 22224
(B) USDEL 22217

1. Concur in plans outlined Ref. (A) for 139th Plenary, which we agree to schedule for January 6.

2. Regarding POW's (para one, B) Col. Gregerson is bringing packages to men on NVN's list which are within authorized weight limits. Rather than asking NVN del to accept the packages, we think you should ask them to explain why these packages were returned and ask them to reconfirm their announced policy of allowing a package every other month. You should also ask whether US prisoners have received the larger (five kilo) packages sent by families for this Christmas. We do not think you should ask NVN del to accept packages,

Cutler/U-PW:FSieverts:gmd	DRAFTING DATE 1/3/71	TEL. EXT. 22691	APPROVED BY: EA - William H. Sullivan

DOD/ISA-~~XXXXXXXXXXX~~ S/S
Mr. Constant

WHITE HOUSE

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ACTION: USDEL FRANCE
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PAGE 2

since this would take packages out of postal channels and could lead to numerous requests to have packages (and mail) delivered in Paris meetings.

END.

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Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

R 311100Z DEC 71
FM USDEL FRANCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5378
INFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 9758
BT
S E C R E T USDEL FRANCE 22224

6 8 5 2 Q
30 DEC 71 Z12 43

NODIS PARIS MEETINGS

SUBJ: PLANS FOR 139TH PLENARY SESSION

1. OTHER SIDE SPEAKS FIRST. WE WILL MAKE BRIEF STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. AIR STRIKES

IF THEIR STATEMENTS CONSIST, AS SEEMS LIKELY, OF DENUNCIATIONS OF AIR STRIKES, WE WILL REMIND THEM SUCH EVENTS WOULD NOT BE OCCURRING IF THEY HAD NOT DISREGARDED PROPOSALS FOR CEASE-FIRE WE PUT FORWARD IN OCT 1970, AND IF THEY HAD OBSERVED UNDERSTANDING ABOUT UNARMED RECONNAISSANCE PLANES. AS WE WITHDRAW OUR TROOPS, ALL THE WORLD CAN SEE THAT, HANOI CONTINUES TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TAKE ACTIONS WHICH EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. OUR TARGETS ARE MILITARY IN NATURE, UNLIKE THEIR INDISCRIMINATE USE OF ROCKETS AGAINST CITIES AND TOWNS, INCLUDING THE CAPITAL OF SOUTH VIET-NAM VERY RECENTLY.

B. POW'S

WE WILL FOCUS ON HANOI'S REJECTION OF LARGE NUMBER OF GIFT PACKAGES SENT TO U.S. POW'S IN ACCORDANCE WITH HANOI'S OWN ANNOUNCED PROCEDURES AND ADDRESSED TO MEN OFFICIALLY IDENTIFIED BY HANOI AS BEING PRISONERS (DEPTEL 232457). WE WOULD DISPLAY SOME PACKAGES, ASK IF THEY WILL ACCEPT THEM, AND IF NOT, WHY NOT. (WE ASSUME PACKAGES BROUGHT BY COL GREGERSON WILL BE ADDRESSED TO POW'S ON NVN LIST AND WILL BE WITHIN AUTHORIZED WEIGHT LIMIT.)

C. PARIS TALKS

WE WILL SAY THAT WE FEEL WE HAVE ADEQUATELY DEMONSTRATED

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-2- USDEL FRANCE 22224, DEC 31, NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS

PATIENCE AT THESE TALKS, AND THAT WE ARE SEEKING SOME INDICATION FROM THEM THAT THEY ARE AT LEAST AUTHORIZED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THEIR PROPOSALS SUCH AS THEIR INTENTIONS ON CEASE-FIRE, POW'S IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AND POINT AT WHICH THEY PLAN TO CONSULT SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE--I.E., THROUGH INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED ELECTIONS--REGARDING THEIR POLITICAL AIMS. WE ALSO EXPECT THEM TO CLARIFY THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD PRISONERS IN THE LIGHT OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION. WE WILL REBUT THEIR EXPECTED CHARGES THAT WE ARE SABOTAGING THE TALKS, POINTING OUT IT HAS BEEN THEIR RIGID DEMAND THAT WE ACCEPT THEIR PROPOSALS WITHOUT ANY CLARIFICATION BY THEM OF OBSCURE POINTS WHICH HAS PREVENTED PROGRESS HERE.

2. IF THEIR PRESENTATION AND THEIR LATER COMMENTS ON THESE MATTERS ARE AS BARREN AND IRRELEVANT AS USUAL, WE WOULD DWELL UPON THAT REGRETFULLY AND IN LOW KEY. I WISH TO CONSULT WITH GVNDEL BEFORE DECIDING ABOUT HOW TO RESPOND ON JAN 6 TO PROPOSAL OTHER SIDE WILL PROBABLY MAKE FOR MEETING ON JAN 13.

GP-3.
PORTER

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